



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

January 4, 2002

H.R. 2278

An act to provide for work authorization for nonimmigrant spouses of intracompany transferees, and to reduce the period of time during which certain intracompany transferees have to be continuously employed before applying for admission to the United States

As cleared by the Congress on December 20, 2001

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2278 would result in no significant net cost to the federal government. The act could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any net effects would be insignificant.

Current law permits certain persons to enter the United States temporarily for employment purposes if they have worked for their employer for at least one year. H.R. 2278 would reduce this time requirement under certain circumstances to six months and would allow the spouses of such persons to seek employment in the United States.

Enacting H.R. 2278 could increase the number of persons who enter the United States for job transfers because of the shortened employment requirement. However, the number of such persons would probably be small and the INS charges no fee for their entry.

Based on information from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), CBO estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 spouses each year could seek employment authorization from the INS under H.R. 2278. The INS would charge a fee of \$100 per person to provide a work permit, so the agency could collect an additional \$1 million to \$2 million annually in offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). The INS is authorized to spend these fees without further appropriation, so the net impact on spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.